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STATE OF NEVADA **DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY** DIVISION OF MORTGAGE LENDING

In re:

Alex Soria

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER

The State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Division of Mortgage Lending (hereinafter, the "Division"), having served Alex Soria (hereinafter, "Respondent") on December 11, 2009, with its Amended Order to Cease and Desist and Notice of Revocation, Notice of Intent to Impose Fine and Notice of Right to Request Hearing, attached hereto as Exhibit "1" and incorporated herein by reference, and on April 22, 2009, with its Order to Cease and Desist and Notice of Revocation, Intent to Impose Fine, and Notice of Right to Request Hearing, attached hereto as Exhibit "2" and incorporated herein by reference. which notified Respondent that a final order would issue in this matter unless, within twenty (20) days of entry and receipt of said Order, Respondent requested a hearing to contest the charges against it, with said request to be made in writing, and;

Said Orders having been sent to Respondents via certified mail and regular mail on December 14, 2009, and April 27, 2009, respectively; and

Respondent having requested a hearing in this matter, and this matter now having been heard by the State of Nevada, Department of Administration, Hearings Division who issued its Decision and Order on April 20, 2010, attached hereto as Exhibit "3" and

incorporated herein by reference, and good cause appearing:

NOW, THEREFORE, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that, pursuant to the Decision and Order issued by the State of Nevada, Department of Administration, Hearings Division on April 20, 2010 and NRS 622.080 and NRS Chapter 645B and NRS Chapter 645F and by permanent regulation R052-09 promulgated pursuant thereto:

- 1. Respondent shall immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** soliciting for and conducting any and all mortgage agent, covered service provider, foreclosure consultant and/or loan modification activity in the State of Nevada;
- 2. Pursuant to NRS 645B.670, and NRS 645B.750, Respondent's mortgage agent license in the State of Nevada is **REVOKED**;
- 3. Respondent will be subject to the administrative fine allowed under NRS 645B.690, in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and No/Cents (\$10,000) subject to the reduction in the amount based upon the reimbursement of client fees by Respondent, on or before July 1, 2010, with evidence of such reimbursement to be provided to the Division as set forth in the Decision and Order attached hereto as Exhibit "3";
- 4. Respondent will be subject to the administrative fine allowed under NRS 645F.410, in the amount of One Thousand Dollars and No/Cents (\$1,000) and said administrative fine shall be paid in full immediately upon entry of the instant Order; and
- 5. Respondent will be subject to administrative fees and costs in the amount of \$320 and attorneys' fees in the amount of \$11,446.77 and said administrative costs and attorneys' fees shall be paid in full immediately upon entry of the instant Order;

SIGNATURE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Dated this 24^{-4} day of May, 2010.

State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry Division of Mortgage Lending

By: / Waltuch, Commissioner



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY **DIVISION OF MORTGAGE LENDING**

In re:

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ALEX SORIA.

Respondent(s).

AMENDED ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST AND NOTICE OF REVOCATION: INTENT TO IMPOSE FINE. AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST HEARING

The licensing and regulation of mortgage brokers, mortgage agents, and related professions in the State of Nevada is governed by Chapters 645B and 645F of the Nevada Revised Statutes (hereinafter, "NRS") and Chapter 645B of the Nevada Administrative Code (hereinafter, "NAC"). The State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Division of Mortgage Lending (hereinafter, the "DIVISION") has the general duty to exercise supervision and control over mortgage brokers, mortgage agents, and related professions. See, NRS 645B.060(1) and NRS 645F.250. Pursuant to that authority, the DIVISION makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as follows:

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 1. Upon information and belief, ALEX SORIA (hereinafter, "RESPONDENT") was previously licensed as a mortgage agent in the State of Nevada, which expired April 29, 2008.
- 2. Upon information and belief, RESPONDENT was the Qualified Employee with AMWEST CAPITAL MORTGAGE, INC. in the State of Nevada until June 1, 2008.
- On February 12, 2009, the DIVISION received a Complaint alleging 3. RESPONDENT engaged in the activity of a foreclosure consultant as that term is defined pursuant to NRS 645F.300, et. seq. and collected advance fees from RM, after a notice of

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default had been recorded against his property, and prior to the services of a foreclosure consultant being fully performed, at the time of the activity complained of herein, in violation of NRS 645F.400(1).

- May 5, 2009, the DIVISION received a complaint (VM) alleging RESPONDENT 4. engaged in mortgage broker/agent activity while not licensed with the DIVISION.
- 5. On August 6, 2009, the DIVISION received a complaint (AF) alleging RESPONDENT engaged in mortgage broker/agent activity while not licensed with the DIVISION.
- 6. On November 5, 2009, the DIVISION received a complaint (JL) alleging RESPONDENT engaged in mortgage broker/agent activity while not licensed with the DIVISION.
- 7. On November 25, 2009, the DIVISION received a complaint (JC) alleging RESPONDENT engaged in mortgage broker/agent activity while not licensed with the DIVISION.
- 8. After receiving the complaints regarding RESPONDENT, the DIVISION commenced an investigation, the results of which established RESPONDENT engaged in the activity of a foreclosure consultant and collected \$1000.00 in advance fees from RM after a notice of default had been recorded by his lender(s), and prior to the services of a foreclosure consultant being fully performed, at the time of the activity complained of herein, in violation of NRS 645F.400(1).
- 9. Pursuant to NRS 645F.250, the DIVISION is charged with administering the foreclosure consultant chapter.
- 10. Pursuant to NRS 645F.410, the COMMISSIONER of the DIVISION may impose an administrative penalty of not more than \$10,000 on a Foreclosure Consultant who violates any provision of NRS 645F.400.
- 11. Pursuant to NRS 645F.320, a "Foreclosure Consultant" is defined, in pertinent part, as "... a person who directly or indirectly, makes any solicitation, representation or offer to a homeowner to perform for compensation, or who, for compensation, performs any covered

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service that the person represents will do any of the following: 1) Prevent or postpone a foreclosure sale; 2) Obtain any forbearance from any mortgagee or beneficiary of a deed of trust; 3) Assist the homeowner to exercise the right of reinstatement provided in the legal documents; 4) Obtain any extension of the period within which the homeowner may reinstate the homeowner's obligation; 5) Obtain any waiver of an acceleration clause contained in any promissory note or contract secured by a mortgage on a residence in foreclosure or included in the mortgage or deed of trust; 6) Assist the homeowner in foreclosure or loan default to obtain a loan or advance of money; 7) Avoid or ameliorate the impairment of the homeowner's credit resulting from the recording of a notice of default or the conduct of a foreclosure sale; 8) Save the homeowner's residence from foreclosure; or 9) Assist the homeowner to obtain a foreclosure reconveyance." See, NRS 645F.320.

- 12. Pursuant to NRS 645F.310, a "Covered Service" includes without limitation: 1) Financial counseling, including, without limitation, debt counseling and budget counseling. 2) Receiving money for the purpose of distributing it to creditors in payment or partial payment of any obligation secured by a mortgage or other lien on a residence in foreclosure. 3) Contacting a creditor on behalf of a homeowner. 4) Arranging or attempting to arrange for an extension of the period within which a homeowner may cure his default and reinstate his obligation pursuant to a note, mortgage or deed of trust. 5) Arranging or attempting to arrange for any delay or postponement of the time of a foreclosure sale. 6) Advising the filing of any document or assisting in any manner in the preparation of any document for filing with a bankruptcy court. 7) Giving any advice, explanation or instruction to a homeowner which in any manner relates to the cure of a default in or the reinstatement of an obligation secured by a mortgage or other lien on the residence in foreclosure, the full satisfaction of the obligation, or the postponement or avoidance of a foreclosure sale.
- 13. Pursuant to NRS 645F.360, a "Homeowner" is defined as the record owner of a residence in foreclosure at the time ... the notice of default and election to sell is recorded See. NRS 645F.360.

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- At the time of the activity complained of herein, NRS 645F.400 (1), provided a 14. foreclosure consultant shall not: "Claim, demand, charge, collect or receive any compensation until after the foreclosure consultant has fully performed each covered service that he contracted to perform or represented that he would perform." See, NRS 645F.400(1).
- 15. The **DIVISION'S** investigation also provided evidence RESPONDENT engaged in mortgage loan activity in Nevada (BG, VM, AF, JL, JC) without being licensed as either a mortgage agent or mortgage broker in Nevada.
- Pursuant to NRS 645B.060, the DIVISION is charged with conducting "...such 16. investigations as may be necessary to determine whether any person has violated any provision of this chapter, a regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter or an order of the Commissioner." See, NRS 645B.060(2)(c).
- 17. Pursuant to NRS 645B.610, the DIVISION is further charged with investigating "...each violation alleged in [a] complaint..." received by the DIVISION and "...shall determine from the investigation whether there is reasonable cause to believe that the [accused] committed the alleged violation..." See, NRS 645B.610(1)(3).
- Pursuant to NRS 645B.0127, a "mortgage broker" is defined, in pertinent part, as 18. "...a person who directly or indirectly... holds himself out for hire to serve as an agent for any person in an attempt to obtain a loan which will be secured by a lien on real property..." or "...holds himself out as being able to make loans secured by liens on real property..." See, NRS 645B.0127(1)(a)(c).
- Pursuant to NRS 645B.0125, a "mortgage agent" is defined, in part, as "...a 19. natural person who... is an employee or independent contractor of a mortgage broker who is required to be licensed pursuant to this chapter..." and "...is authorized by the mortgage broker to engage in, on behalf of the mortgage broker, any activity that would require the person, if he were not an employee or independent contractor of the mortgage broker, to be licensed as a mortgage broker pursuant to this chapter..." See, NRS 645B.0125 (1)(a)(b).
- 20. Pursuant to NRS 645B.900, "...it is unlawful for any person to offer or provide any of the services of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent or otherwise to engage in, carry on or

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hold himself out as engaging in or carrying on the business of a mortgage broker or agent without first obtaining the applicable license issued pursuant to this chapter..." See, NRS 645B.900.

Pursuant to NRS 645B.690, "...if a person offers or provides any of the services 21. of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent or otherwise engages in, carries on or holds himself out as engaging in or carrying on the business of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent and, at the time... the person was required to have a license pursuant to this chapter and the person did not have such a license... the Commissioner shall impose upon the person an administrative fine of not more than \$10,000 for each violation and, if the person has a license. the Commissioner shall revoke it..." See, NRS 645B.690(1)(a).

VIOLATIONS OF LAW

- 1. Having investigated the RESPONDENT'S conduct in this matter and received competent evidence that RESPONDENT has engaged in the activity of a foreclosure consultant and collected compensation prior to fully performing each service that he represented he would perform, i.e. loan modification in the State of Nevada in order to prevent or postpone a foreclosure sale (RM), it has been determined that RESPONDENT did, at the time of the activity complained of herein, in fact, violate then NRS 645F.400 (1).
- 2. Moreover, the investigation also established RESPONDENT engaged in the business of a mortgage agent or mortgage broker in the State of Nevada (BG, VM, AF, JL, JC) without either an agent license or a mortgage broker license entitling him to do the same, thereby violating NRS 645B.690(1)(a) and NRS 645B.900.

ORDER

NOW. THEREFORE, pursuant to NRS 622.080 and NAC 645B.340. the COMMISSIONER of the DIVISION HEREBY ORDERS that RESPONDENT CEASE AND DESIST from conducting any and all unlicensed mortgage brokering and/or agent activity in the State of Nevada.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the COMMISSIONER of the DIVISION HEREBY **DETERMINES** that, pursuant to NRS 645B.690(1),RESPONDENT'S mortgage agent license shall be revoked.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to NRS 645F.410, NRS 645B.750 and NAC 645B.340(4), upon written application to the Division, RESPONDENT shall be entitled to a hearing with regard to the contents of the instant Order. At that hearing, the DIVISION will also seek to impose a fine of \$20,000 for RESPONDENT'S violations of NRS Chapters 645F and NRS 645B, as well as for the DIVISION'S administrative costs and attorney's fees, in the amount of \$300.00, incurred herein, and each to be proven at the hearing. Should RESPONDENT not request a hearing within twenty (20) days of the receipt of the instant Order, the DIVISION will enter a Final Order in this matter against RESPONDENT, including such fine, costs and fees.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the sum of said administrative fine, costs and fees be paid in full within thirty (30) days of entry of the Final Order;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, upon the DIVISION'S receipt of the sum of said administrative fine, costs and fees, this matter will be deemed concluded;

RESPONDENT is advised that the provisions of this Order are effective immediately upon RESPONDENT being served therewith, whether or not RESPONDENT requests a hearing.

DATED this 11th day of December, 2009.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY **DIVISION OF MORTGAGE LENDING**

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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I certify that I am an employee of the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry Division of Mortgage Lending, and that on December 14, 2009, I deposited in the U.S. mail postage prepaid via First Class Mail and Certified Return Receipt Requested, a true and correct copy of the foregoing, AMENDED ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST AND NOTICE OF REVOCATION; INTENT TO IMPOSE FINE for ALEX SORIA, addressed as follows:

Alex Soria 2620 Regatta Drive, Ste. 102 Las Vegas, NV 89128

Certified Receipt Number: 7008 1830 0002 7959 5208

DATED this 14th day of December, 2009

By: Employee of the Division



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY DIVISION OF MORTGAGE LENDING

* * *

In re:

ALEX SORIA.

Respondent.

ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST AND NOTICE OF REVOCATION; INTENT TO IMPOSE FINE, AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST HEARING

The licensing and regulation of mortgage brokers, mortgage agents, and related professions in the State of Nevada is governed by Chapters 645B and 645F of the Nevada Revised Statutes (hereinafter, "NRS") and Chapter 645B of the Nevada Administrative Code (hereinafter, "NAC"). The State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Division of Mortgage Lending (hereinafter, the "DIVISION") has the general duty to exercise supervision and control over mortgage brokers, mortgage agents, and related professions. <u>See</u>, NRS 645B.060(1) and NRS 645F.250. Pursuant to that authority, the DIVISION makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as follows:

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 1. Upon information and belief, ALEX SORIA (hereinafter, "RESPONDENT") was previously licensed as a mortgage agent in the State of Nevada, which expired April 29, 2008.
- 2. Upon information and belief, RESPONDENT was the Qualified Employee with Amwest Capital Mortgage, Inc. in the State of Nevada until June 1, 2008.
- 3. On February 12, 2009, the DIVISION received a Complaint alleging RESPONDENT engaged in the activity of a foreclosure consultant as that term is defined pursuant to NRS 645F.300, et. seq. and collected advance fees from Mickel, after said

Mickel had been issued a notice of default by their lender(s), and prior to the services of a foreclosure consultant being fully performed in violation of NRS 645F.400(1).

- 4. After receiving the Complaint regarding RESPONDENT, the DIVISION commenced an investigation, the results of which established RESPONDENT engaged in the activity of a foreclosure consultant and collected \$1000.00 in advance fees from Mickel after said Mickel had been issued a notice of default by their lender(s), and prior to the services of a foreclosure consultant being fully performed in violation of NRS 645F.400(1).
- 5. Pursuant to NRS 645F.250, the DIVISION is charged with administering the foreclosure consultant chapter.
- 6. Pursuant to NRS 645F.410, the Commissioner of the DIVISION may impose an administrative penalty of not more than \$10,000 on a foreclosure consultant who violates any provision of NRS 645F.400.
- 7. Pursuant to NRS 645F.320, a "foreclosure consultant" is defined, in pertinent part, as "... a person who directly or indirectly, makes any solicitation, representation or offer to a homeowner to perform for compensation, or who, for compensation, performs any covered service that the person represents will do any of the following: 1) Prevent or postpone a foreclosure sale; 2) Obtain any forbearance from any mortgagee or beneficiary of a deed of trust; 3) Assist the homeowner to exercise the right of reinstatement provided in the legal documents; 4) Obtain any extension of the period within which the homeowner may reinstate the homeowner's obligation; 5) Obtain any waiver of an acceleration clause contained in any promissory note or contract secured by a mortgage on a residence in foreclosure or included in the mortgage or deed of trust; 6) Assist the homeowner in foreclosure or loan default to obtain a loan or advance of money; 7) Avoid or ameliorate the impairment of the homeowner's credit resulting from the recording of a notice of default or the conduct of a foreclosure sale; 8) Save the homeowner's residence from foreclosure; or 9) Assist the homeowner to obtain a foreclosure reconveyance." See, NRS 645F.320.
 - 8. Pursuant to NRS 645F.310, a "covered service" includes without limitation:
- 1) Financial counseling, including, without limitation, debt counseling and budget counseling.

- 2) Receiving money for the purpose of distributing it to creditors in payment or partial payment of any obligation secured by a mortgage or other lien on a residence in foreclosure.
- 3) Contacting a creditor on behalf of a homeowner. 4) Arranging or attempting to arrange for an extension of the period within which a homeowner may cure his default and reinstate his obligation pursuant to a note, mortgage or deed of trust. 5) Arranging or attempting to arrange for any delay or postponement of the time of a foreclosure sale. 6) Advising the filing of any document or assisting in any manner in the preparation of any document for filing with a bankruptcy court. 7) Giving any advice, explanation or instruction to a homeowner which in any manner relates to the cure of a default in or the reinstatement of an obligation secured by a mortgage or other lien on the residence in foreclosure, the full satisfaction of the obligation, or the postponement or avoidance of a foreclosure sale.
- 9. Pursuant to NRS 645F.360, a "homeowner" is defined as the record owner of a residence in foreclosure at the time ... the notice of default and election to sell is recorded See, NRS 645F.360.
- 10. Pursuant to NRS 645F.400 (1), a foreclosure consultant shall not: "Claim, demand, charge, collect or receive any compensation until after the foreclosure consultant has fully performed each covered service that he contracted to perform or represented that he would perform." See, NRS 645F.400(1).
- 11. The DIVISION'S investigation also provided evidence RESPONDENT engaged in mortgage loan activity in Nevada (Garcia) without being licensed as either a mortgage agent or mortgage broker in Nevada.
- 12. Pursuant to NRS 645B.060, the DIVISION is charged with conducting "...such investigations as may be necessary to determine whether any person has violated any provision of this chapter, a regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter or an order of the Commissioner." <u>See</u>, NRS 645B.060(2)(c).
- 13. Pursuant to NRS 645B.610, the DIVISION is further charged with investigating "...each violation alleged in [a] complaint..." received by the DIVISION and "...shall determine

from the investigation whether there is reasonable cause to believe that the [accused] committed the alleged violation..." <u>See</u>, NRS 645B.610(1)(3).

- 14. Pursuant to NRS 645B.0127, a "mortgage broker" is defined, in pertinent part, as "...a person who directly or indirectly... holds himself out for hire to serve as an agent for any person in an attempt to obtain a loan which will be secured by a lien on real property..." or "...holds himself out as being able to make loans secured by liens on real property..." See, NRS 645B.0127(1)(a)(c).
- Pursuant to NRS 645B.0125, a "mortgage agent" is defined, in part, as "...a natural person who... is an employee or independent contractor of a mortgage broker who is required to be licensed pursuant to this chapter..." and "...is authorized by the mortgage broker to engage in, on behalf of the mortgage broker, any activity that would require the person, if he were not an employee or independent contractor of the mortgage broker, to be licensed as a mortgage broker pursuant to this chapter..." See, NRS 645B.0125 (1)(a)(b).
- 16. Pursuant to NRS 645B.900, "...it is unlawful for any person to offer or provide any of the services of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent or otherwise to engage in, carry on or hold himself out as engaging in or carrying on the business of a mortgage broker or agent without first obtaining the applicable license issued pursuant to this chapter..." See, NRS 645B.900.
- 17. Pursuant to NRS 645B.690, "...if a person offers or provides any of the services of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent or otherwise engages in, carries on or holds himself out as engaging in or carrying on the business of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent and, at the time... the person was required to have a license pursuant to this chapter and the person did not have such a license... the Commissioner shall impose upon the person an administrative fine of not more than \$10,000 for each violation and, if the person has a license, the Commissioner shall revoke it..." See, NRS 645B.690(1)(a).

VIOLATIONS OF LAW

1. Having investigated the RESPONDENT'S conduct in this matter and received competent evidence that RESPONDENT has engaged in the activity of a foreclosure

consultant and collected compensation prior to fully performing each service that he represented he would perform, i.e. loan modification in the State of Nevada in order to prevent or postpone a foreclosure sale, it has been determined that RESPONDENT did, in fact, violate NRS 645F.400 (1).

2. Moreover, the investigation also established RESPONDENT engaged in the business of a mortgage agent or mortgage broker in the State of Nevada without either an agent license or a mortgage broker license entitling him to do the same, thereby violating NRS 645B.690(1)(a) and NRS 645B.900.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to NRS 622.080 and NAC 645B.340, the COMMISSIONER of the DIVISION HEREBY ORDERS that RESPONDENT CEASE AND DESIST from conducting any and all unlicensed mortgage brokering and/or agent activity in the State of Nevada.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the COMMISSIONER of the DIVISION HEREBY DETERMINES that, pursuant to NRS 645B.670(3),RESPONDENT'S mortgage agent license shall be revoked.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to NRS 645F.410, NRS 645B.750 and NAC 645B.340(4), upon written application to the Division within **twenty (20) days** of the date of this order, RESPONDENT shall be entitled to a hearing with regard to the contents of this Order. At that hearing, the DIVISION will also seek:

- a. The imposition of an administrative fine in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) for RESPONDENT'S violations of NRS Chapters 645F and 645B, as well as the DIVISION'S investigative costs in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty Dollars and No Cents (\$320.00) and attorney's fees, incurred herein, to be proven at the hearing; and
- b. RESPONDENT'S payment, in full, of the administrative fine, costs and fees to the DIVISION within **thirty (30) days** of the entry of the Final Order.

Should RESPONDENT not request a hearing within **twenty (20) days** of the date of this Order, the DIVISION will enter a Final Order in this matter against RESPONDENT, as required by NRS 645B.750(2)

RESPONDENT is advised that the provisions of this Order are effective immediately upon RESPONDENT being served therewith, whether or not RESPONDENT requests a hearing.

DATED this 23" day of April, 2009.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
DIVISION OF MORTGAGE LENDING

By: MALTUCH, COMMISSIONER

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am an employee of the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry Division of Mortgage Lending, and that on April 27, 2009, I deposited in the U.S. mail, postage prepaid via First Class Mail and Certified Return Receipt Requested, a true and correct copy of the foregoing, ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST AND NOTICE OF REVOCATION; INTENT TO IMPOSE FINE AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST HEARING for ALEX SORIAl addressed as follows:

Alex Soria 2620 Regatta Drive, #239 & 102 Las Vegas, NV 89128

Certified Receipt Number: 7006 2760 0000 0875 9650

DATED this 24th day of April, 2009

Employee of the Division



RECEIVED

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*fortonue Lending Divisio

BEFORE THE APPEALS OFFICER In the Administrative Action of:

ALEX SORIA.

Appeal No: 63358-PL

Claim No:

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Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter was heard on February 19, 2010 before Hearing Officer Paul S. Lychuk, 8 Esq. The Respondent, Alex Soria, was present in proper person. The State of Nevada's Division of Mortgage Lending ("the DIVISION") was represented by and through its counsel, CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, Attorney General, by Deputy Attorney General, CHRISTINE M. PARVAN. Following the hearing, the Respondent was allowed additional time to submit documentary evidence. Following the submittal of the documents by the Respondent and comment in response by the Nevada Attorney General's office, the matter was submitted for decision on March 26, 2010.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Respondent testified at the hearing and acknowledged that he had engaged in the activities of a mortgage agent after his license had expired, and had also engaged in the activities of a foreclosure consultant, as alleged in the DIVISION'S Amended Order to Cease and Desist and Notice of Revocation, Intent to Impose Fine, and Notice of Right to Request a Hearing ("Complaint").

The Respondent acknowledged at the hearing that while acting as a foreclosure consultant he did accept fees in advance from a homeowner in foreclosure, which was in violation of NRS 645F.400(1)(2007). The Respondent, however, contends that his attempt to assist the homeowner was legitimate and when it was to no avail and the home was sold he returned the fees to the homeowner.

The Respondent also points out that NRS 645F.400, as amended in 2009, no longer prohibits a foreclosure consultant from accepting fees in advance so long as the fees are deposited in accordance with NRS 645F.394. The Respondent also testified that at the time he accepted the fees in advance he was not aware of NRS 645F.400(1)(2007).

The Hearing Officer notes that even if the Respondent was aware of the statute, when he accepted a check from the homeowner on January 21, 2009, it is unlikely that the Respondent was aware that the Trustees Deed Upon Sale had recorded the day prior, rendering the "homeowner in foreclosure," as defined by NRS 645F.360(2007), which brought the transaction under the statute in the first place.

The Hearing Officer found the Respondent's testimony to be credible on this issue. The statute was enacted in 2007 and the requirements for the licensing of foreclosure consultants with attendant education requirements were not added until July of 2009.

The Respondent also testified at the hearing that he was unaware that he was no longer a qualified employee with Amwest Capital Mortgage (Amwest) as of June 1, 2008, and that his mortgage agent license had expired as of April 29, 2008.

The evidence submitted by the DIVISION demonstrates that the Respondent was advised by letter from Amwest on May 1, 2008 that it was closing its Las Vegas branch; that he would no longer be their qualified employee; and that he would need to submit an appropriate license application to the DIVISION before originating any loans for Amwest.

The evidence further demonstrates that on five separate occasions thereafter, as alleged in the Complaint, the Respondent accepted fees and engaged in mortgage loan activity on behalf of individuals without an appropriate license in violation of NRS 645B.400.

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In addition, the DIVISION represented, and the Respondent did not deny, having met with the Respondent in February of 2009 to discuss allegations of unlicensed mortgage loan activity, yet the Respondent did not cease and desist the unlicensed activity of a mortgage agent.

The Hearing Officer notes that evidence presented demonstrates that after meeting with the DIVISION in February, the Respondent issued a loan pre-approval letter on Amwest letterhead with the Las Vegas address as late as March 3, 2009. In addition, Amwest had advised the Respondent in May of 2008 that its branch in Las Vegas was closed as of June 1, 2008.

In light of the evidence presented, the Respondent's testimony that he was unaware that he was no longer the qualified employee for Amwest, nor aware that his mortgage agent license had expired, when he engaged in the unlicensed mortgage agent activity alleged in the Complaint was not credible to the Hearing Officer.

The Respondent has also submitted documents to assert that his efforts on behalf of the clients referenced in the Complaint were legitimate and in good faith to assist them each from losing their homes to foreclosure. The records submitted by the Respondent do reflect legitimate work having been done for each of the five clients referred to in the Complaint.

The DIVISION points out that while the Respondent states that his intentions were genuine, he ignored repeated inquires from the respective clients as to the status of their loans and his efforts in that regard, and did not secure refinancing for any of the clients to their detriment. As well, the Respondent clearly was accepting fees and seeking to obtain loans for clients without a license.

The Hearing Officer finds that the evidence as a whole sufficiently demonstrates that the Respondent's conduct was in violation of NRS 645B.400, and was done knowingly and not inadvertently as he contends.

The DIVISION also asserted at the hearing that the Respondent was using improper methods in his attempts to obtain refinancing for his clients, however, this assertion is beyond the scope of the Complaint and the underlying agreed upon facts noted herein that preceded the hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the testimony and evidence submitted, the Hearing Officer concludes that the imposition of an administrative fine in this matter for the five violations of NRS 645B.400, as set forth in the Complaint, and as allowed under NRS 645B.690, in the total amount of \$10,000 is appropriate.

The Hearing Officer further orders that the Respondent may reduce the amount of the administrative fine commensurate with the amount of client fees that he hereafter reimburses to the respective clients set forth in the Complaint who have not yet been reimbursed, so long as the clients are repaid no later than July 1, 2010.

Based upon the testimony and evidence submitted, the Hearing Officer concludes that the imposition of a fine in this matter for the violation of NRS 645F.400(1)(2007), as set forth in the Complaint, and as allowed under NRS 645F.410, in the total amount of \$1,000 is appropriate.

Based upon the respective violations of NRS 645B and 645F, the Respondent is to reimburse the DIVISION its administrative fees and costs in the amount of \$320, and attorney fees.

Based upon the testimony and evidence submitted, the Hearing Officer concludes that the totality of the facts and circumstances concerning the Respondent's admitted violations of NRS 645B.400 require the revocation of the Respondent's mortgage agent license pursuant to NRS 645B.690(1)(a) and (b).

The Respondent may not reapply for licensure under NRS 645 until the administrative fines, fees and costs are paid in full.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 2010.

PAULS. LYCHUK, ESO, HEARING OFFICER

NOTICE: Pursuant to N.R.S. 233B.130, should any party desire to appeal this final determination of the Appeals Officer, a Petition for Judicial Review must be filed with the District Court within thirty (30) days after service by mail of this decision

1 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** 2 The undersigned, an employee of the State of Nevada, Department of Administration, Hearings Division, does hereby certify that on the date shown below, a true and correct copy of 3 the foregoing **DECISION AND ORDER** was duly mailed, postage prepaid **OR** placed in the appropriate addressee runner file at the Department of Administration, Hearings Division, 2200 S. Rancho Drive, #220, Las Vegas, Nevada, to the following: 5 **ALEX SORIA** 6 2620 REGATTA DR STE 102 LAS VEGAS NV 89128 DIVISION OF MORTGAGE LENDING 8 STATE OF NEVADA NANCY CORBIN 7220 BERMUDA RD STE A 10 LAS VEGAS NV 89119 11 COLLEEN E HEMINGWAY ESQ 12 ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE 100 N CARSON ST 13 CARSON CITY NV 89701 14 CHRISTINE PARVAN ESQ OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL 15 555 E WASHINGTON AVE STE 3900 16 LAS VEGAS NV 89101 17 day of APRIL, 2010. 18 19 Marian Stevens, Legal Secretary II Employee of the State of Nevada 20 21

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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I certify that I am an employee of the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Division of Mortgage Lending, and that on , June 1, 2010, I deposited in the U.S. mail, postage prepaid via First Class Mail and Certified Return Receipt Requested, a true and correct copy of the foregoing, FINAL ORDER for ALEX SORIA, addressed as follows:

ALEX SORIA 2620 Regatta Drive #239 & 102 Las Vegas, NV 89128

Certified Receipt Number: 7008 1830 0002 7959 6021

DATED this 28th day of May, 2010

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